

Franklin Whitney House
63 Front Street
Binghamton
Broome County
New York

HABS No. NY-5563

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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FRANKLIN WHITNEY HOUSE

Location: 63 Front Street, Binghamton, New York

Present Owner: Dr. Mark Williams

Present Occupant: Dr. Williams

Present Use: Residence and office

Brief Statement of Significance: Built by a son of Binghamton's founder, General Joshua Whitney, II (land agent for William Bingham, patentee), it is a good example of the large Greek Revival homes of Binghamton's early residents and one of the few remaining monuments to the Whitney family.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1828 (Seward, vol. 3, p. 175)
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners:
 - 1838 - Lewis St. John sold lot no. 4 of his farm to Franklin Whitney. (Recorded in Broome County Book of Deeds 20, pp. 316-17) It is recorded as being a 'parcel of land and premises'. However, it is uncertain as to whether or not 'premises' refers to this or another structure, since Whitney owned the lot immediately north of this one. According to 1866 city map, property still owned by Whitney family estate.
 - 1867 - Timothy Hireem sold property to Philip Hopkins. recorded in Broome County Book of Deeds 73, p. 206.
 - 1906 - James F. Hopkins sold the property to George Berkalew. Recorded in Broome County Book of Deeds 204, p. 143.
 - 1920 - Last Will and Testament of George Berkalew left the property to his wife Emma. Recorded in Broome County Book of Deeds 301, p. 213.
 - 1922 - Emma Berkalew sold the property to Moses Hider. Recorded in Broome County Book of Deeds 320, p. 81.

1923 - Moses Hider sold the property to Theodore Townsend. Recorded in Broome County Book of Deeds 330, p. 594.

1939 - Katherine Townsend sold the property to Stephen Sanderson. Recorded in Broome County Book of Deeds 494, p. 13.

- Stephen Sanderson sold the property to the present owner, Mark Williams. Recorded in Broome County Book of Deeds 507, p. 129.

4. Builder, supplier, etc.: Unknown.

5. Original plan and construction: Unknown.

6. Alterations and additions: Unknown.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: The only prominent personages known to have been associated with this building are the members of the Whitney family. It stands on an old and prominent residential street where it has been a distinguished and notable landmark.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old Views: Photographs in the collection of the Broome County Historical Society at the Roberson Memorial Center in Binghamton.

2. Bibliography:

Bartoo, E. H. writing in Seward, WM. F. Binghamton and Broome County New York: A History. Lewis Pub. Co., N.Y. & Chicago, 1924, vol. I, p. 320 and vol. III, p. 175.

D. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated:

1. Verification of its history between 1838 and 1867 has yet to be done at the County Clerk's Office. Additionally, the physical history of the house and plot before 1838 has not been done. More information on this may possibly be found in the County Clerk's Office, or from Mr. McDonald in Assessment at 772-7002.

2. The Whitney Papers are in the Broome County Historical Society at Roberson Center. They are indexed in the BCHS card catalog. Under the sub-heading of 'Real Estate' there is a "Map of Franklin Whitney's Location in Binghamton in 1939" (Whitney Papers No. 674) that may have further information on the house.

Prepared by Clement G. Bowers
 Binghamton, New York
 June 30, 1963

PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records are part of the documentation of structures in the Southern Tier of New York State, undertaken by HABS in cooperation with the Broome County Historical Society and the Valley Development Foundation, Inc.

The project was under the general supervision of John Poppeliers, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. The historical material was prepared by Clement G. Bowers, June 1963. Photographs were taken by Jack E. Boucher in March, 1963. The project was edited for deposit in the Library of Congress by Constance Werner Ramirez April, 1976.